

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 01349 172211Z

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ACTION ARA-06

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R 171850Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9696

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LA PAZ 1349

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

FOR ARA/BC/FIMBRES

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, EFIN,HBL

SUBJ: OPIC POLICY/SEMINARS IN BOLIVIA

REF: STATE 36553

1. OPIC POSITION AS DESCRIBED IS NOT COMPLETE BUT SINCE IT CLARIFIES POLICY TO CONSIDERABLE EXTENT, I HAVE AUTHORIZED GURR TO GO AHEAD WITH TENTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEMINAR. THEREFORE, IF WE AND OPIC REACH FULL AGREEMENT THEN SEMINAR CAN PROCEED ON BASIS OF HIS ARRANGEMENTS. IF WE ARE NOT ABLE TO OBTAIN FULLY SATISFACTORY UNDERSTANDING, THEN I WILL RECOMMEND THAT SEMINAR BE CANCELLED OR POSTPONED.

2. POINTS NOT CLEAR ARE:

(A) OPIC HAS NOT GIVEN APPROVAL OF PUBLIC STATEMENT CONTAINED IN LA PAZ 303. SENTENCE OF IMPORTANCE IS THAT WHICH STATES OPIC WILL NOT NORMALLY ISSUE INSURANCE FOR EQUITY INVESTMENTS IN FARMING, RANCHING OR IN EXTRACTION OF MINERALS AND PETROLEUM. WHILE WE SEE MERITS IN PUBLIC STATEMENT, WE WOULD AGREE TO THIS AS WITHIN USG POLICY STATEMENT IF IT GUIDED OPIC ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING ORAL DISCUSSIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE WITH INSURANCE APPLICANTS.

(B) OPIC IN PARA 1.A OF REFTEL MENTIONES ITS VIEW THAT INVESTMENT

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PAGE 02 LA PAZ 01349 172211Z

IN SIZEABLE LAND HOLDINGS ARE SENSITIVE. I BELIEVE THAT SIZE IS

HARD TO DEFINE. WHAT IS SMALL IN BENI FOR CATTLE MAY BE HUGE IN SANTA CRUZ FOR SOYA. I thus prefer to stick to position against ALL LAND HOLDINGS UNLESS AN EASILY UNDERSTOOD AND PRACTICAL DEFINITION OF SIZE CAN BE ESTABLISHED.

(D) OPIC HAS NOT INDICATED ITS ACCEPTANCE OF OBVIOUS INTENT OF OUR MESSAGES TO HAVE OPIC PUT EMPHASIS OF SEMINAR ON PROCESSING RATHER THAN RAW MATERIALS EXTRACTION. PUBLIC RELATIONS BENEFITS OF OPIC STIMULATION OF INTERMEDIATE STAGE OF INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY WILL BE GREAT. OPIC AGREEMENT TO DE-EMPHASIZE, INDEED TO POINT OF DISCOURAGING, EXTRACTIVE AND LAND INVESTMENTS WOULD BE MOST WELCOME.

(E) OPIC SHOULD STATE THAT IT WILL NOT INSURE EQUITY INVESTMENTS FOR EXPORT TO ANDEAN COMMON MARKET.

3. POSSIBLY WE HAVE NOT MADE CLEAR THAT WE WORRY THAT OPIC SEMINAR AND FOLLOW-ON INVESTORS VISIT WILL STIMULATE APPLICATIONS FOR THE VERY ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL CAUSE FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEMS, UNLESS WE CONVINCE OPIC TO TAILOR ITS EFFORTS TOWARD AREAS OF AGREEMENT. WE DO NOT WANT WIDE-OPEN, ALL EMBRACING KIND OF PUBLIC PRESENTATION OF WHAT OPIC CHARTER PERMITS IT TO DO. WE WISH ACTIVITIES TO CONFORM TO OUR VIEWS OF WHAT IS WISE ON FOREIGN POLICY GROUNDS.

4. WE REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S FURTHER EFFORTS AT REACHING FULL AGREEMENT ON POLICY AND ON POLICY STATEMENT TO GUIDE SEMINAR.
STEDMAN

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